

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Previously Amended) A method of managing input/output drawers within a data processing system, the method comprising:  
    assigning a unique identifier to each of a plurality of input/output drawers; and  
    storing the unique identifier in memory;  
    wherein the unique identifier is used by an operating system to identify the plurality of input/output drawers regardless of how the input/output drawers are interconnected by cables, such that addresses used when accessing devices contained within said plurality of input/output drawers do not change when reconfiguring at least one of the input/output drawers within the data processing system.
2. (Previously Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:  
    responsive to a determination that a new input/output drawer has been added to the data processing system, assigning a new unique identifier to the new input/output drawer, wherein the new unique identifier is different from any of the unique identifiers previously assigned, such that each of the plurality of input/output drawers maintains the same unique identifier.
3. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the method is performed in a service processor.
4. (Previously Amended) The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the unique identifier and the new unique identifier are stored in a device tree.
5. (Previously Amended) The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the unique identifier comprise device nodes and location codes.
6. (Original) The method as recited in claim 4, wherein the device tree is stored in a system memory.

7. (Original) The method as recited in claim 2, further comprising:  
updating a device tree to reflect a configuration of the data processing system  
after inclusion of the new input/output drawer.
8. (Previously Amended) A computer program product in a computer readable  
media for use in a data processing system for managing input/output drawers within the  
data processing system, the computer program product comprising:  
first instructions for assigning a unique identifier to each of a plurality of  
input/output drawers; and  
second instructions for storing the unique identifier in memory;  
wherein the unique identifier is used by an operating system to identify the  
plurality of input/output drawers regardless of how the input/output drawers are  
interconnected by cables, such that addresses used when accessing devices contained  
within said plurality of input/output drawers do not change when reconfiguring at least  
one of the input/output drawers within the data processing system.
9. (Previously Amended) The computer program product as recited in claim 8,  
further comprising:  
third instructions, responsive to a determination that a new input/output drawer  
has been added to the data processing system, for assigning a new unique identifier to the  
new input/output drawer, wherein the new unique identifier is different from any of the  
unique identifiers previously assigned, such that each of the plurality of input/output  
drawers maintains the same unique identifier.
10. (Previously Amended) The computer program product as recited in claim 8,  
wherein said first and second instructions are executed in a service processor.
11. (Previously Amended) The computer program product as recited in claim 9,  
wherein the unique identifier and the new unique identifier are stored in a device tree.

12. (Previously Amended) The computer program product as recited in claim 9, wherein the unique identifier comprise device nodes and location codes.
13. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the device tree is stored in a system memory.
14. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 9, further comprising:  
fourth instructions for updating a device tree to reflect a configuration of the data processing system after inclusion of the new input/output drawer.
15. (Previously Amended) A system for managing input/output drawers within a data processing system, the system comprising:  
first means for assigning a unique identifier to each of a plurality of input/output drawers; and  
second means for storing the unique identifier in memory;  
wherein the unique identifier is used by an operating system to identify the plurality of input/output drawers regardless of how the input/output drawers are interconnected by cables, such that addresses used when accessing devices contained within said plurality of input/output drawers do not change when reconfiguring at least one of the input/output drawers within the data processing system.
16. (Previously Amended) The system as recited in claim 15, further comprising:  
third means, responsive to a determination that a new input/output drawer has been added to the data processing system, for assigning a new unique identifier to the new input/output drawer, wherein the new unique identifier is different from any of the unique identifiers previously assigned, such that each of the plurality of input/output drawers maintains the same unique identifier.
17. (Previously Amended) The system as recited in claim 15, wherein said first and second means are executed in a service processor.

18. (Previously Amended) The system as recited in claim 16, wherein the unique identifier and the new unique identifier are stored in a device tree.
19. (Previously Amended) The system as recited in claim 16, wherein the unique identifier comprise device nodes and location codes.
20. (Original) The system as recited in claim 18, wherein the device tree is stored in a system memory.
21. (Original) The system as recited in claim 16, further comprising:  
fourth means for updating a device tree to reflect a configuration of the data processing system after inclusion of the new input/output drawer.